## IN THE CLAIMS:

## **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

- 11. (Currently Amende) A starting circuit for switching power supplies, comprising:
- a first terminal, a second terminal, and a third terminal that supplies voltage to circuits of a switching power supply;
  - a first supply voltage coming from a the first terminal;
  - a second supply voltage coming from a the second terminal and a third terminal;
  - a first current path between the first terminal and the third terminal;
  - a second current path between the first terminal and the second terminal;
  - a third current path between the second terminal and the third terminal; and
- a two-way voltage regulator placed along the second current path, wherein the twoway voltage regulator comprises a transistor with one terminal coupled to the first supply voltage and another terminal coupled to the second supply voltage, which, in a first operation mode allows current to flow from the first supply voltage to the second supply voltage and, in a second operation mode allows current to flow from the second supply voltage to the third terminal of the starting circuit, having the drain coupled to the second terminal and the source coupled to the first and to the third terminal.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 11, wherein the two-way voltage regulator comprises a voltage limiting circuit supplied by the first supply voltage.
- 13. (Cancelled)
- 14. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 11, wherein the two-way voltage regulator comprises a preset voltage generator coupled to the transistor gate.

Attorney Docket: 02-CA-184/GC

- 15. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 11, wherein the two-way voltage regulator comprises a capacitor coupled to the transistor gate.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 11, wherein the first current path comprises a resistance.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 11, wherein the first current path comprises a controlled switch.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The starting circuit according to claim 17, wherein the controlled switch is closed when the second supply voltage is lower than a preset reference voltage value and it is open when the second supply voltage is higher than the preset reference value.
- 19. (Currently Amended) A switching power supply comprising:
  - a control circuit for the switching power supply; and
  - a starting circuit of the control circuit, the starting circuit comprising:
- a first terminal, a second terminal, and a third terminal that supplies voltage to circuits of the switching power supply;
  - a first supply voltage coming from a the first terminal;
- a second supply voltage coming from a the second terminal and a third terminal:
  - a first current path between the first terminal and the third terminal;
  - a second current path between the first terminal and the second terminal;
  - a third current path between the second terminal and the third terminal; and
- a two-way voltage regulator placed along the second current path, wherein the two-way voltage regulator comprises a transistor with one terminal coupled to the first supply voltage and another terminal coupled to the second supply voltage, which, in a first operation mode allows current to flow from the first supply voltage to the second supply voltage and, in a second operation mode allows current to flow from the second supply voltage to the third terminal of the starting circuit. having the drain coupled to the second terminal and the source coupled to the first and to the third terminal.

Attorney Docket: 02-CA-184/GC

- 20. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit for a switching power supply, the integrated circuit comprising:
  - a control circuit for the switching power supply; and
- a starting circuit able to sustain a self supply voltage greater than 40 V, the starting circuit comprising:
- a first terminal, a second terminal, and a third terminal that supplies voltage to circuits of the switching power supply;
  - a first supply voltage coming from a the first terminal;
- a second supply voltage coming from a the second terminal and a third terminal;
  - a first current path between the first terminal and the third terminal;
  - a second current path between the first terminal and the second terminal;
  - a third current path between the second terminal and the third terminal; and
- a two-way voltage regulator placed along the second current path, wherein the two-way voltage regulator comprises a transistor with one terminal coupled to the first supply voltage and another terminal coupled to the second supply voltage, which, in a first operation mode allows current to flow from the first supply voltage to the second supply voltage and, in a second operation mode allows current to flow from the second supply voltage to the third terminal of the starting circuit. having the drain coupled to the second terminal and the source coupled to the first and to the third terminal.